What is claimed is:

1.   An inventory control method, comprising:

determining a standard deviation based on a difference between an actual received order quantity in each unit period and an average received order quantity;

controlling a stock quantity by use of a safety stock quantity based on said standard deviation; and

determining said standard deviation using a value of said difference between said actual received order quantity and said average received order quantity only when said actual received order quantity exceeds said average received order quantity.

2.   The inventory control method according to claim 1, wherein said standard deviation is determined using said average received order quantity calculated only from said actual received order quantities taking positive values.

3.   The inventory control method according to claim 1, wherein said standard deviation is determined using said average received order quantity calculated only from said actual received order quantities taking positive values, and also using only said unit periods, when said actual received order quantities take positive values, as a population parameter.

4.   The inventory control method according to claim 1, wherein a number of said unit periods to be targeted is itself used as a population parameter for determining said standard deviation.

5.   An inventory control method, comprising:

determining a standard deviation based on a difference between an actual received order quantity in each unit period and an average received order quantity; and

controlling a stock quantity by use of a safety stock quantity based on said standard deviation,

wherein said standard deviation determining step includes

using a value of said difference between said actual received order quantity and said average received order quantity only when said actual received order quantity exceeds said average received order quantity,

using said average received order quantity calculated only from said actual received order quantities taking positive values,

using only said unit periods, when said actual received order quantities take positive values, as a population parameter, and

using a number of said unit periods, to be targeted, itself as said population parameter.

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6.   The inventory control method according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein an article to be ordered is a component part of an automobile or an accessory part of an automobile.